Containment Systems and Booming Fact Sheet
June 7, 2010

TECHNIQUES

Exclusion booming

- Used to keep oil away from sensitive areas
- Use depends on geography and weather

Diversion booming

- Used to minimize the impact of oil in strategic locations, and to direct its flow elsewhere
- Most effective when current is below .7 knots and waves are negligible
- Quantity used depends on geography and weather conditions
- Deployed in a chevron or inverted "V" pattern to deflect oil to either side
- Deployed in a cascading pattern – varying lengths progressively staggered in deployment – to direct oil to one side of a watercourse

Containment booming

- Deployed in a "U" or "V" shape to direct flow of oil to a recovery resource, such as a skimmer
- Quantity and placement depends on geographer, weather, and quantity that must be recovered
- Often used in combination with skimming resources.
- When used in sheltered waters, containment booms are often anchored to the bottom.

BOOM TYPES

Hard boom

- Typically made of hard plastic
- Consists of flotation chamber that rides above the water, with an attached skirt that hangs in the water

Sorbent boom

- Sorbent booms are made of materials that attracts oil but repel water
- Once saturated, the sorbents need to be removed and disposed of properly
- Usually deployed along shoreline to protect sensitive areas or to keep heavier, emulsified oils from spreading
- May be used with in conjunction conventional boom
- Primarily used in quiet waters that are not heavily contaminated

Snare boom

- Looks like pom-poms
- Usually placed along beach to capture tar balls